



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

## ***Amendment***

LCO No. 10175



Offered by:

SEN. MCCRORY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

REP. SANCHEZ, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.

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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1018

File No. 918

Cal. No. 547

### ***"AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10-266q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

5 (a) On or before September fifteenth of each fiscal year in which  
6 payment is to be made, the State Board of Education shall authorize  
7 grant awards. [Grant awards] A grant award shall be authorized only  
8 after (1) [proposals] a proposal for such [grants have] grant has been  
9 submitted to the [commissioner] Commissioner of Education by the  
10 local board of education for a school [districts] district described in  
11 section 10-266p, as amended by this act, at such time and in such  
12 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe, and after the  
13 commissioner and [each] such school district [have] has reached  
14 agreement regarding how such grant shall be [utilized] expended, or

15 (2) for the school years commencing July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2024,  
16 inclusive, the commissioner has developed a plan for the expenditure  
17 of such grant for a local board of education described in subdivision  
18 (3) of subsection (c) of this section in accordance with the provisions of  
19 said subdivision. Each proposal or plan shall be based on a three-year  
20 project plan and include, but not be limited to, an explanation of  
21 project goals, objectives, evaluation strategies and budget which shall  
22 identify local funding and other resource contributions for the three-  
23 year period. [provided proposals shall give priority to the  
24 development or expansion of extended-day kindergarten programs.]

25 (b) [A] Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section,  
26 for the school year commencing July 1, 2019, and each school year  
27 thereafter, a priority school district grant shall be payable to the local  
28 board of education for [the] a school [districts] district described in  
29 section 10-266p, as amended by this act, which shall [use the funds]  
30 expend such grant for any of the following uses: (1) The creation or  
31 expansion of programs or activities related to dropout prevention, (2)  
32 alternative and transitional programs for students having difficulty  
33 succeeding in traditional educational programs, (3) academic  
34 enrichment, tutorial and recreation programs or activities in school  
35 buildings during nonschool hours and during the summer, (4)  
36 development or expansion of extended-day kindergarten programs, (5)  
37 development or expansion of [early reading intervention programs]  
38 scientifically-based reading research and instruction, as defined in  
39 section 10-14u, including summer and after-school programs, (6)  
40 enhancement of the use of technology to support instruction or  
41 improve parent and teacher communication, (7) initiatives to  
42 strengthen parent involvement in the education of children, and parent  
43 and other community involvement in school and school district  
44 programs, activities and educational policies, which may be in  
45 accordance with the provisions of section 10-4g, [or] (8) for purposes of  
46 obtaining accreditation for elementary and middle schools from the  
47 New England Association of Schools and Colleges, (9) numeracy  
48 instruction, or (10) support to chronically absent children, as defined in

49 section 10-198c, and reducing the district chronic absenteeism rate, as  
50 defined in section 10-198c. Each such board of education shall use at  
51 least twenty per cent of its grant for early reading intervention  
52 programs. Each such board of education shall use its grant to  
53 supplement existing programs or create new programs. If the State  
54 Board of Education finds that any such grant is being used for other  
55 purposes or is being used to decrease the local share of support for  
56 schools, it may require repayment of such grant to the state.

57 (c) (1) Not later than March 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Education  
58 shall determine whether the accountability index, as defined in section  
59 10-223e, for each local board of education for a school district  
60 described in section 10-266p, as amended by this act, has improved  
61 during the school years commencing July 1, 2018, to July 1, 2020,  
62 inclusive.

63 (2) For the school years commencing July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2024,  
64 inclusive, any such board whose accountability index has improved  
65 during the school years commencing July 1, 2018, to July 1, 2020,  
66 inclusive, shall (A) submit a proposal to the commissioner in  
67 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
68 this section, and (B) expend the priority school district grant for any of  
69 the uses described in subsection (b) of this section.

70 (3) For the school years commencing July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2024,  
71 inclusive, if the accountability index for any such board has not  
72 improved during the school years commencing July 1, 2018, to July 1,  
73 2020, inclusive, then the commissioner shall (A) develop a three-year  
74 plan for the expenditure of the priority school district grant for such  
75 board, and (B) expend such grant for any of the following uses: (i)  
76 Scientifically-based reading research and instruction, as defined in  
77 section 10-14u, (ii) numeracy instruction, and (iii) support to  
78 chronically absent children, as defined in section 10-198c, and reducing  
79 the district chronic absenteeism rate, as defined in section 10-198c.

80 [(c)] (d) Each priority school district grant shall be awarded by the

81 State Board of Education on an annual basis. Funding in subsequent  
82 years shall be based on funds available, annual application and  
83 program evaluation.

84 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-266p of the general statutes is  
85 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
86 *1, 2019*):

87 (a) The State Board of Education shall administer a priority school  
88 district grant program to assist certain school districts to improve  
89 student achievement and enhance educational opportunities. [The  
90 grant program shall include the priority school district portions of the  
91 grant programs established pursuant to sections 10-265f, 10-265m and  
92 10-266t.] The priority school district grant program [and its component  
93 parts] shall be for school districts in (1) the eight towns in the state  
94 with the largest population, based on the most recent federal decennial  
95 census, (2) towns which rank for the first fiscal year of each biennium  
96 from one to eleven when all towns are ranked in descending order  
97 from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on the number of children  
98 under the temporary family assistance program, as defined in  
99 subdivision (17) of section 10-262f, plus the mastery count of the town,  
100 as defined in subdivision (13) of section 10-262f, and (3) towns which  
101 rank for the first fiscal year of each biennium one to eleven when all  
102 towns are ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-  
103 nine based on the ratio of the number of children under the temporary  
104 family assistance program as so defined to the resident students of  
105 such town, as defined in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, plus the  
106 grant mastery percentage of the town, as defined in subdivision (12) of  
107 section 10-262f. The State Board of Education shall utilize the  
108 categorical grant program established under this section and sections  
109 10-266q and 10-266r, as amended by this act, and other educational  
110 resources of the state to work cooperatively with such school districts  
111 during any school year to improve their educational programs or early  
112 reading intervention programs. [The component parts of the grant  
113 shall be allocated according to the provisions of sections 10-265f, 10-  
114 265m and 10-266t.] Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section

115 10-276a, the State Board of Education shall allocate one million dollars  
116 to each of the eight towns described in subdivision (1) of this  
117 subsection and five hundred thousand dollars to each of the towns  
118 described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, except the  
119 towns described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not receive  
120 any additional allocation if they are also described in subdivision (2) or  
121 (3) of this subsection.

122 Sec. 3. Section 10-266r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
123 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

124 (a) The State Board of Education shall prepare an evaluation of the  
125 priority school district grant program not later than [December 15,  
126 1990] July 1, 2020, and [triennially] annually thereafter.

127 (b) Each school district participating in the [project] priority school  
128 district grant program shall prepare an annual [project] program  
129 evaluation, which shall include a description of program activities and  
130 [documentation of program improvement and student achievement]  
131 whether such program is (1) improving student achievement and  
132 enhancing educational opportunities in the school district, and (2)  
133 achieving the objectives and performance targets approved by the  
134 Commissioner of Education as stated in the proposal submitted by the  
135 school district pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section  
136 10-266q, as amended by this act, or the plan developed by the  
137 commissioner pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section  
138 10-266q, as amended by this act. Each such evaluation shall be  
139 submitted to the commissioner on or before August fifteenth of the  
140 fiscal year following each fiscal year in which the school district  
141 participated in the priority school district program.

142 (c) [Within] Not later than sixty days after the close of the school  
143 year, each local board of education which received a priority school  
144 district grant shall file with the commissioner a financial statement of  
145 expenditures in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe. The  
146 State Board of Education shall periodically review grant payments

147 made pursuant to this section in order to determine that such state  
148 funds received are being used for the purposes specified in the  
149 application. On or before December thirty-first of the fiscal year  
150 following the fiscal year in which payment was received, each local  
151 board which received a priority school district grant shall file with the  
152 commissioner a financial audit in such form as prescribed by the  
153 commissioner.

154 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) The Department of  
155 Education shall establish a Center for Literacy Research and Reading  
156 Success. The center shall be responsible for (1) collaborating with the  
157 department in the implementation of the coordinated state-wide  
158 reading plan for students in kindergarten to grade five, inclusive,  
159 established pursuant to section 10-14v of the general statutes, (2)  
160 researching and developing, in collaboration with the department and  
161 Office of Early Childhood, a birth to grade twelve, inclusive, reading  
162 success strategy to be included in the alignment of reading instruction  
163 with the two-generational initiative, established pursuant to section  
164 17b-112l of the general statutes, (3) providing direct support to schools  
165 and boards of education to improve reading outcomes for students in  
166 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, through coaching, leadership  
167 training, professional development, parental engagement and  
168 technical assistance that is consistent with the intensive reading  
169 instruction program, as described in section 10-14u of the general  
170 statutes, and aligned with evidence-based practices, (4) developing  
171 and maintaining an Internet web site for the purpose of (A)  
172 disseminating tools and information associated with the intensive  
173 reading instruction program and other reading initiatives, and (B)  
174 supporting the community of teachers, schools and boards of  
175 education engaged in improving student reading, and (5) serving as a  
176 collaborative center for institutions of higher education and making  
177 available to the faculty of teacher preparation programs (A) the science  
178 of teaching reading, (B) the intensive reading instruction program, and  
179 (C) samples of available curriculum.

180 (b) The center shall be under the direction of a coordinator who

181 shall, in consultation with the Reading Leadership Advisory Council  
182 described in subsection (c) of this section, be responsible for (1)  
183 overseeing all activities of the center, (2) facilitating communication  
184 between the center and boards of education, the Department of  
185 Education and other affiliates of the center, and (3) coordinating the  
186 dissemination of information, tools and services made available by the  
187 center.

188 (c) The policies and goals for the center shall be established by the  
189 Reading Leadership Advisory Council, which shall consist of the  
190 following members: (1) The coordinator of the center, or the  
191 coordinator's designee, (2) the director of reading initiatives for the  
192 Department of Education, as described in section 10-3c of the general  
193 statutes, (3) the executive director of the Commission on Women,  
194 Children and Seniors, or the executive director's designee, (4) literacy  
195 experts, designated by the coordinator, who are engaged in the  
196 development and implementation of the intensive reading instruction  
197 program, (5) an individual designated by the chairperson of the Black  
198 and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly, provided such  
199 individual is not a member of the General Assembly, and (6) the dean  
200 of the Neag School of Education at The University of Connecticut, or  
201 the dean's designee. The Reading Leadership Advisory Council shall  
202 develop and publish the annual goals for the center and meet at least  
203 once every two months. The Reading Leadership Advisory Council  
204 may establish an advisory board that consists of representatives from  
205 public, private and philanthropic organizations, and is responsible for  
206 providing advice, guidance and resources for the center's goal and  
207 mission.

208 (d) The center shall hire reading coaches who have experience and  
209 expertise in the intensive reading instruction program. Such reading  
210 coaches shall (1) provide training and professional development on the  
211 intensive reading instruction program, literacy leadership and effective  
212 instruction to teachers, (2) work directly with teachers to support the  
213 implementation of the intensive reading instruction program and  
214 attend school and school district leadership, data and planning

215 meetings, (3) provide coaching to teachers, and (4) lead and participate  
216 in family engagement activities.

217 (e) For purposes of establishing and administering the center under  
218 this section, the Department of Education may enter into a  
219 memorandum of understanding with a public institution of higher  
220 education that has expertise in scientifically-based reading research  
221 and instruction, as defined in section 10-14u of the general statutes,  
222 and prior experience in the delivery of comprehensive school-wide  
223 evidence-based reading instruction and intervention in grades  
224 kindergarten to five, inclusive."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-266q
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-266p(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-266r
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section